removing the prohibitions in investment of surplus funds of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in mutual funds subject to the conditions that (i) Only Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs are permitted to invest in SEBI regulated public sector mutual funds, (ii) Investments in schemes of such mutual funds, having equity investment, should not exceed 30% of the available surplus funds of the concerned CPSE, and (iii) The Board of Directors of these CPSEs would decide the guidelines, procedures and management control systems for investment in such mutual funds in consultation with the Administrative Ministries.

Retrenchment of workers

770. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale retrenchment of workers of late because of loss of earnings on account of appreciation of rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the financial support given to the exporters by Government has no attached condition to protect the employment of the workers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that there is no retrenchment of workers on account of fall in income due to dollar depreciation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Export growth continued to be high at 18.5% in April-September, 2007 over corresponding period of previous year on top of high export growths in earlier years despite the appreciation of the Ruppee. There is also no one to one relationship between appreciation and export growth as export growth depends on other factors such as world economic growth, world trade growth, sector specific factors etc., As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth, Government has announced relief packages to exporters comprising of reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premimum, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing all arrears of terminal excise duties, Central sales tax reimbursement, enhancement of duty drawback rates, enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates for 9 sectors which include labour intensive sectors, reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit for the 9 sectors and to all exporters from the same and medium enterprises sector, etc.

Recovery of fake currency notes in Madhya Pradesh

†771. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs has been recovered in August, 2007 at Dabra city of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of incidents of accepting these currency by the Banks in Dabra city have also come to the notice; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the persons giving fake currency to the Banks and the officials of Banks accepting such currency?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.